

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

12. (Presently Amended) A flexible container for containing a liquid, including two overlaying walls of flexible material welded or bonded along a peripheral seam so as to define an inner sealed volume, said container comprising an outwardly protruding spout and an outflow channel connecting said spout with said inner sealed volume of said container, wherein one or several obstacles formed by welding or bonding together a portion of said two overlaying walls is or are located in said inner sealed volume substantially opposite and in the vicinity of the outflow channel thereby leaving open at least one restricted passage between the inner sealed volume and the outflow channel, the obstacle or obstacles extending between two ends and creating two folds, one extending from each of said ends, directed substantially transversally with respect to said obstacles and traversing the peripheral seam, the position of the one or several obstacles relative to the spout and the peripheral seam being such that a portion of the overlying walls including the spout and bounded by the obstacle or the obstacles and by the folds deflects or arches when liquid is present in the inner sealed volume.

13. (Previously Amended) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the obstacle defines two said restricted passages at two opposite sides of the outflow channel of the spout.

14. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the spout has a generally straight shape and extends substantially perpendicularly to a peripheral portion of the container to which it is affixed.

15. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the spout includes a groove for tearing off a portion of the spout.

16. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the walls of the container are made from a single sheet of flexible material, which is folded over to overlay said two walls.

17. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the walls of the container are made from two separate sheets of flexible material.
18. (Previously Amended) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the obstacle has an elongated shape and extends between two ends overlapping the peripheral seam on either side of the spout.
19. (Previously Amended) A flexible container according to claim 18, wherein the obstacle overlaps said peripheral seam on either side of the spout by an amount that is less than 5 % of the overall length of the peripheral seam.
20. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the obstacle extends substantially parallel to portions of the peripheral seam located on either side of the spout.
21. (Original) A flexible container according to claim 12, comprising at least two said obstacles spaced apart by a narrow passage facing the outflow channel of the spout.
22. (New) A flexible container for containing a liquid, including two overlaying walls of flexible material welded or bonded along a peripheral seam so as to define an inner sealed volume, said container comprising an outwardly protruding spout and an outflow channel connecting said spout with said inner sealed volume of said container, wherein one or several obstacles formed by welding or bonding together a portion of said two overlaying walls is or are located in said inner sealed volume substantially opposite and in the vicinity of the outflow channel thereby leaving open at least one restricted passage between the inner sealed volume and the outflow channel, the position of the one or several obstacles relative to the spout and the peripheral seam being such that a portion of the overlying walls including the spout and bounded by the obstacle or the obstacles and by folds directed substantially transversally with respect to said obstacles deflects or arches when liquid is present in the inner sealed volume, and wherein the obstacle has an elongated shape and extends between two ends overlapping the peripheral

seam on either side of the spout by an amount that is less than 5% of the overall length of the peripheral seam.

23. (New) A flexible container according to claim 22, wherein the obstacle defines two said restricted passages at two opposite sides of the outflow channel of the spout.

24. (New) A flexible container according to claim 22, wherein the spout has a generally straight shape and extends substantially perpendicularly to a peripheral portion of the container to which it is affixed.

25. (New) A flexible container according to claim 22, wherein the spout includes a groove for tearing off a portion of the spout.

26. (New) A flexible container according to claim 22, wherein the walls of the container are made from a single sheet of flexible material, which is folded over to overlay said two walls.

27. (New) A flexible container according to claim 22, wherein the walls of the container are made from two separate sheets of flexible material.

28. (New) A flexible container according to claim 12, wherein the obstacle extends substantially parallel to portions of the peripheral seam located on either side of the spout.

29. (New) A flexible container according to claim 12, comprising at least two said obstacles spaced apart by a narrow passage facing the outflow channel of the spout.